

Map Vocabulary

aerial view – a view as if from high in the air

bird's eye view – as seen from high above or from a great distance, as by a bird in flight

block – a small section of a city or town enclosed by neighboring and intersecting streets

boundaries – the lines that separate one area from another

compass rose – an ornamented compass that indicates direction (north, south, east, west) on a map

direction arrows – compass arrows that point in the cardinal directions (north, south, east, west)

elevation – the height above sea level

intersection – the place where two or more roads meet

key – a list or chart that explains the symbols on a map or chart

map grid – a network of horizontal and perpendicular lines, uniformly spaced, for locating points on a map

panoramic – a bird's eye view, usually of a wide area

physical map – a map showing the natural features of an area, such as rivers, lakes, or mountains

point of view – the position or direction from which the mapmaker draws the map or the photographer points the camera

political map – a map showing where one country, state, or city ends and another begins

thematic (or subject) map – a map that focuses on a single subject, such as agriculture, weather, or natural resources